

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 have been amended in a manner believed to obviate the Examiner's objections.

Claims 1-8 and 12-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,460,230 to Shimamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,842,950 to Fleuchaus. Further, claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Shimamura.

Simamura teaches a mold-in fastening member including a substrate (1), bottom hooks (3) and top hooks (2). (Col. 4, Lines 40-44). Marginal portions (4) extend from each side of substrate (1) and are separated therefrom by a groove (5) on each side. (Col. 4, Lines 49-54). Groove (5) renders the marginal portions (4) relatively flexible compared to substrate (1). (Col. 4, Lines 52-54). This relative flexibility of marginal portions (4) enables a gap to be formed between the edge of the marginal portions and the top surface of the shoulder of the mold recess. (Col 6, Lines 56-58). This gap is formed because pressure from the foaming material as well as the pull of the magnet cause substrate (1) to move down into the recess. Correspondingly, the marginal portions are pivoted upwardly. This arrangement allows the foaming resin composition to enter into the gap and a part of the edge is buried in the foaming resin composition. (Col. 6, Lines 58-60)

The present invention requires broad surface area contact to effect sealing. Specifically, independent claims 1, 12, and new claim 20 each require that the article over which a molding is to be made must include ledge regions having a bottom surface. Further, the bottom surface must contact the top surface of the vertical walls of the receiving cavity to provide surface to surface contact. The remaining independent claim 19 requires the bottom surface must contact the top surface of the vertical walls. As discussed above, Simamura does not teach surface to surface contact. The article of Simamura includes grooved portions that cause local areas of weakness or flexibility. This localized flexibility will cause the grooves to act as pivot points, allowing the marginal

portions to angle upwardly during molding. Simamura therefore does not teach or suggest the surface to surface contact of the present invention.


The broad area of surface to surface contact of the present invention promotes effective sealing against the penetration of the poured foam. The surface-to-surface contact is achieved because of the relatively flexible nature of the entire ledge (not just localized flexibility) that allows them rest on the top surface of the vertical wall and follow its undulations.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the Applicant believes that claims 1-8 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance reconsideration and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The amount of \$200 for the additional independent claim is to be charged to the undersigned per the enclosed Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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